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VOL. II NO. 375

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1947.

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"Rebel" MPs Defeated

London, Dec. 17.—Labour Party "rebels" forced a vote in the House of Commons tonight against the Government proposals to pay £240,000 annually to Princess Elizabeth and £10,000 annually to her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, to carry out their Royal duties. The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, intervened in the lively debate to appeal for support, but the rebels refused to give way and insisted on a vote on their amendment to pay the Royal couple £10,000 annually for personal expenditure with the provision for expenditure on their Royal duties to be paid as necessary by the Treasury. They were defeated by 345 votes to 33.—Reuter

TUC Campaign To Bring Down Prices

London, Dec. 17.—The General Council of the 8,000,000-strong Trades Union Congress today unanimously accepted its "crisis" committee's economic report, which is understood to urge a nationwide campaign by organised trade unionists to bring down prices and check profiteering.

The report was prepared by the special committee after extensive enquiries into the development of Britain's wages, prices and taxes under the inflationary pressure created by the austerity shortages and after repeated consultations with Government departments. Today's meeting of the General Council said that the report "emphasised the responsibility resting upon trade unionists in the present difficult circumstances of the country and also directed attention to the vital importance of maintaining price stability" by the Government.

SUPPORT FOR BEVIN

The General Council today passed a resolution expressing its profound disappointment that the Foreign Ministers' Conference failed to reach agreement on the peace treaties with Germany and Austria. The Council congratulated the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, on his efforts to reach a resolution and pledged support to him and the Government in the work for the establishment of permanent peace and the economic rehabilitation of Europe.

The Council emphatically approved the Marshall plan. In a statement issued for the guidance of TUC representatives for the Executive meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Council approved the principle of aid to Europe and described Mr. Marshall's ideas as a statesmanlike approach to the problems of Europe. It also congratulated American labour on its contribution to U.S. understanding of the European position.—Reuter

TRUMAN SIGNS INTERIM AID BILL

China Not Included

Washington, Dec. 17.—President Truman signed the interim aid bill today and \$150,000,000 became automatically available for immediate relief to France, Italy and Austria.

President Truman signed the bill without any ceremony. It was announced at the same time that he had tentatively decided to send his Marshall plan message to Congress on Friday.

It was understood that this may be put off again if Congress, due to go into recess on that day decides that it is unable to finish the work in time and had to continue until next week.

Even before President Truman had signed the stop-gap aid bill, emergency shipments of American coal and grain were moving towards France as a first dividend of this measure. State Department officials disclosed that cargoes of American supplies to be paid for with United States funds left east coast ports within the past few days in anticipation of President Truman's action.

HOUSE APPROVES

The House of Representatives approved today the appropriations bill granting \$500,000,000 for emergency winter relief to France, Italy and Austria and \$230,000,000 for American occupation costs in Germany, Japan and Korea.

The bill, approved by a comfortable margin, was immediately sent to the Senate. Once that Chamber approves or amends the Appropriations Act the interim foreign aid legislation will have been completed. This is expected on Friday.

The money bill was adopted by a voice vote. An earlier of its overwhelming approval by the House was the rejection, by 167 to 55 votes of a motion to recommend the bill to committee. The Appropriations Act, as passed, represents a reduction of \$88,000,000 in the \$597,000,000 relief programme for France, Italy, Austria and China, authorised by Congress earlier this week.

CHINA EXCLUDED

No substantial changes, apart from the total exclusion of China from the relief funds, were made in the programmes as a result of the Appropriations Committee's reduction.

The bill passed today merely reiterated the previous insistence by Congress that 150,000,000 bushels of wheat should be retained in the United States at all times, at the expense of European grain shipments, if necessary.

The funds granted under the Appropriation Act for American military expenses in the U.S.-zone of Germany and other American occupation areas represent a cut of

\$260,000,000 originally requested by the Army. Some observers predicted that the Senate Appropriations group would approve the bill without amendment. It would then go to the White House for immediate signature, slightly over four weeks since President Truman called a special session of Congress. If there were any disagreement over the final amount in the Senate, the bill would probably be the subject of a conference between the two Houses.

\$88,000,000 CUT

The House Appropriations Committee made an \$88,000,000 cut in the emergency foreign aid programme yesterday. The Committee also reduced from \$400,000,000 to \$230,000,000 the Army had requested for the government and relief in occupied areas.

While the Committee recommended no funds for China, it is said that the \$88,000,000 reduction would leave a reserve for use in China in the event of an aid programme being begun here.

The largest reduction was in the fund for the army government and relief in occupied areas, amounting to 53 percent. The Committee cut \$137,000,000 from the army request for \$237,000,000 for food and relief in the British occupied zone of Germany and trimmed \$123,000,000 from food and relief estimates for the United States-occupied areas in Germany, Japan and Korea.

QUICK ACTION

Only on Monday, Congress sent President Truman the legislation approving the \$597,000,000 programme for help to France, Italy, Austria and China.

President Truman had called Congress into a special session on November 17 last and had asked for a sum of \$597,000,000 to help France, Italy and Austria to get through the winter and resist Communism. The bill sent to President Truman only gave Congressional approval for the idea of aid and set \$597,000,000 as the maximum which could be provided.

Separate legislation was required to provide the funds. That was the bill the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee recommended today.—Reuter

Big Three May Meet In Washington

London, Dec. 17.—The possibility of an American-British-French conference in Washington soon to merge the Western occupation zones of Germany was reported today.

Ranking delegates of the Western powers maintained close liaison in the continuing round of talks which began with the breakup of the Big Four conference and the abrupt departure of the Soviet Foreign Minister for Moscow.

The French Foreign Minister (M. Georges Bidault) was understood to have expressed willingness for the three Western Governments to begin negotiations soon in Washington with a view to fusing the French zone of Germany into the Anglo-American area.

Such talks probably would start on a "working level." The British Foreign Secretary (Mr. Ernest Bevin) talked with M. Bidault for a half-hour at the Foreign Office this morning. They were assumed to have discussed the future of Germany and the possibility of uniting the three occupation zones. The same matters were believed to have been reviewed by Mr. Bevin with Mr. John Foster Dulles (adviser to Mr. Marshall) and Sir Hartley Shawcross (Attorney General) at luncheon in the House of Commons.—United Press

New Figure Announced For Coal Exports

London, Dec. 17.—British coal supplies for export and for bunkers at home and abroad, are to be increased from January 1 from 112,000 tons weekly to 200,000 tons weekly. Announcing this in the Commons today, Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, the Minister of Fuel said that exports would be to countries participating in the conference of European economic co-operation, and to other countries subject to good return in food, raw materials or dollar savings.

Mr. Gaitskell said at the same time an additional 20,000 tons weekly would be provided for domestic consumers and also 20,000 tons to increase the coke requirements of iron and steel industry.

Emphasising that he had no desire to exaggerate the importance of these developments, Mr. Gaitskell reminded the Commons that exports and bunkers must be increased up to an average of 300,000 tons weekly in the coming year if Britain was to meet her commitments.—Reuter

Britain Increases Price Of Tin By £73 To Record £510 Per Ton

London, Dec. 17.—The Ministry of Supply announced on Tuesday night that the government today is lifting restrictions on domestic licences to buy tin and simultaneously raising the delivered price to British consumers by £73 to a record high of £510 a ton.

City sources predicted an increase of about £70 in prices paid to Malayan and Nigerian producers will follow in a few days.

The new tin price of £510 applies to 99 percent pure tin. Prices for grain bar tin and granulated tin were similarly increased. Grain bar tin was priced at £530 and granulated at £535. The Financial Times said it learned "announcement of higher prices to be paid for bulk purchase of supplies from Malayan and Nigerian producers is likely later this week."

The Evening News financial editor said Malayan producers probably will get a new price of "near £500 a ton" in place of the present £423. The Financial Times remarked, "It does not necessarily follow that Malayan and Nigerian producers will receive that the increase is for pure tin for their metal, or its equivalent in terms of concentrates, but if the past is any guide, they will."

The Financial Times investments specialist said the increase of £73 per ton "does not fulfil the most extravagant hopes, but the market should not be disappointed." Tin shares have been firm on the London for weeks. Prices were steady on Tuesday. Interest in today's stock market was centred on tin shares. They advanced.—Associated Press

U.S. NOT SURPRISED

Washington, Dec. 17.—British action in raising the price of tin was met by United States government tin purchasing agencies with a laconic "We knew it was coming." These quarters said, "London controls the world tin price. Whatever is done there must be reflected here."

This statement referred to tin quotations by the US government Metals Reserve Corporation. It will soon be purchasing for American commercial tin users. These officials declined to say how much more American tin users would have to pay.

They said only, "The London action will cause us to do something with our price, but we do not know what it will be generally felt the London action would be reflected by a closely paralleling price increase here."

TIN CONCENTRATES

Metals Reserve officials are negotiating with Bolivia for tin concentrates. They said, "We have not reached any agreement and did not anticipate any certainty before London tin action was officially announced. Pending this, British action neither we nor the Bolivians sought an agreement. Just how soon an agreement will be reached now is uncertain. The Bolivians are asking a very high figure. The agreement may come within a week or not for months."

Government tin experts said they are acquiring about 50,000 to 75,000 tons of tin yearly from tin sources. Government buyers added, "We are important users but have no control over supplies. The British say prices are going up. If we wish to get any tin we will have to pay more here."—Associated Press

"GROSSLY INADEQUATE"

Singapore, Dec. 17.—Mr. H. S. Lee, Chairman of the Malayan Union Chinese Chamber of Mines, said today that the British Government's newly announced increase in the selling price of tin from £437 to £510 a ton was "grossly inadequate." He doubted whether the present production could be maintained with the price at that level.

European companies working tin dredges felt the new prices would allow them to show a margin of profit, but would not make it attractive to re-establish unequipped property.—Reuter

ARGENTINA'S CHALLENGE

Havana, Dec. 17.—Argentina is prepared to challenge the United States supremacy in the western hemisphere by offering its own "Feron Plan" of \$5,000,000,000 in loans to needy nations of the world, especially South America.

The dramatic offer was announced in a press conference last night by Mr. Diego Luis Molinari, chief Argentine delegate to the United Nations conference here. He said the Argentine plan should go hand in glove with the Marshall plan.

Mr. Molinari's announcement came amid scathing denunciation of the United States for limiting the Marshall plan aid to nations of Western Europe despite Argentina's plea that needy nations of the western hemisphere be included. The plan was rejected when proposed by the Argentine delegates at the inter-American defence conference at Rio de Janeiro several months ago.

Mr. Molinari said it was imperative some sort of aid plan for the western hemisphere be started immediately to coincide with the Marshall plan. He emphasised repeatedly in the course of a 30-minute conference that Argentina was prepared to distribute an equivalent of \$5,000,000,000 in loans not only to Latin American nations but to any qualified nation.—United Press

NO ATOMIC WAR YET, PREDICTED

New York, Dec. 17.—It was "reasonably probable" that there would not be an atomic war "for a while yet," General Andrew McNamara, the Canadian member of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, said here today.

The United States would maintain its "ascendancy" in the field of atomic energy for at least another 10 years.

General McNamara, addressing the Canadian Club of New York, added that "it would be folly to waste time" in preparing defensive measures.—Reuter

Chiang Kai-Shek A "Fine Character"

Washington, Dec. 17.—Lt. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer today told the Senate Appropriations Committee that he considered Chiang Kai-Shek to be the "logical leader of China today," and urged the United States to aid China commensurate with its ability to help and China's ability to use the aid effectively.

Gen. Wedemeyer said, "I do not think it matters whether Chiang is a benevolent despot, which he is, or a democratic leader. The most important thing is he constantly opposes the Communists." He said Chiang could have made peace with the Japanese "under very favourable terms" during the height of the

the communists laid all responsibility "for the trouble ahead" on "those who decided to divide Palestine without taking into consideration the consequences."

A source in Cairo in close touch with the Arab League meeting today said that the fear of Communist infiltration into the Middle East formed the background to the ten-day talks and the Council took important decisions, which "may spring a few surprises."

Though the Arab League has decided not to submit the Palestine case to the Security Council, it was believed in Cairo that a non-Arab nation on the Security Council might raise the matter, and that the United Nations might then send the case to the League International Court, which might find legal grounds for invalidating the partition decision.

RACIAL HOLY WAR

Arab leaders are understood to have received reports telling them of marked changes in public opinion in the United States in favour of Arabs and a corresponding change in the State Department's attitude was forecast.

Nuri Ed Said Pasha, veteran Iraqi statesman, who has been attending the Political Council of the Arab League in Cairo, declared: "The Palestine partition may lead to a racial Holy War that may extend for as long a period as the Crusades."

He denied the recent press reports that he carried a plan to settle all differences between Britain and Arab nations.

An Arab military delegation has left Cairo for Europe to purchase arms for the defence of Palestine against partition. It was learned tonight. A senior Arab officer has also left for India on a similar mission.

In Jerusalem tonight, three detachments of steel helmeted British infantry are moving to isolated Jewish colonies in the southern desert of Palestine. It was officially reported.

One detachment was going to the Hula settlement. Royal Air Force planes this afternoon flew over the Beerseba district of southern Palestine after unconfirmed reports of Arab Jewish clashes. Two Jews were wounded today when Arab snipers opened fire on one of the most southerly Jewish settlements in Palestine.—Reuter

POLICE SEARCH

Jerusalem, December 17.—The Palestine police were last night searching Jerusalem and the surrounding districts for a mysterious

armoured car from which shots were thought to have been fired that killed one police sergeant and wounded another.

However, the police were not able to confirm that the shots had in fact actually been fired from the vehicle.

The two sergeants were believed to be victims of the other gang—a Jewish terrorist organisation—using an armoured car which, according to Jewish sources, was stolen from Jaffa by Arabs a week ago.

Police headquarters have denied that an armoured car is missing. Three Jewish settlement police and one Jew were wounded when Arabs attacked three Jewish settlements in the Negev area.

The Arab attacks on the settlements which are in the desert area in southern Palestine, were launched at intervals. The Halutza settlement sent out an S.O.S. for reinforcements, according to reports from a Jewish source, who claimed that three Jewish settlement police, rushing to the Halutza settlers' aid were shot and reported to be killed.

The attack on these policemen was said to have been made by Camel Corps marksmen of the Palestine police.

A police announcement said simply: "It is believed that the Camel Corps had been in action." A Baghdad report says that evening papers last night declared that it was "confirmed by reliable quarters" that the Iraq army is now ready to join the Arab armies for the Palestine battle.

Unconfirmed reports say that 150,000 armed men are awaiting the signal to march.—Reuter

PLANS FOR JUDEA

London, Dec. 18.—A Jewish Agency leader said today that plans for Judea—a projected name for Jewish Palestine—would provide for Swiss-like neutrality in any possible World war.

At the same time, another Jewish spokesman pointed out that an "indefinite period of conflict" with anti-partitionist Arabs was envisaged for the new state, and to meet that threat any army of at least 10,000 would have to be maintained. It would mean an initial weekly expenditure of US\$500,000, he said.

Dr. Nahum Goldhamer, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, asserted in an interview that Jewish legal experts, now working on the draft constitution for the Jewish nation, has included a neutrality clause aimed at promoting "friendliness for all, enmity towards none."

He explained that perpetual neutrality for the new country would be justified on grounds that millions of Jews would still remain scattered throughout the world.—Associated Press

EDITORIAL

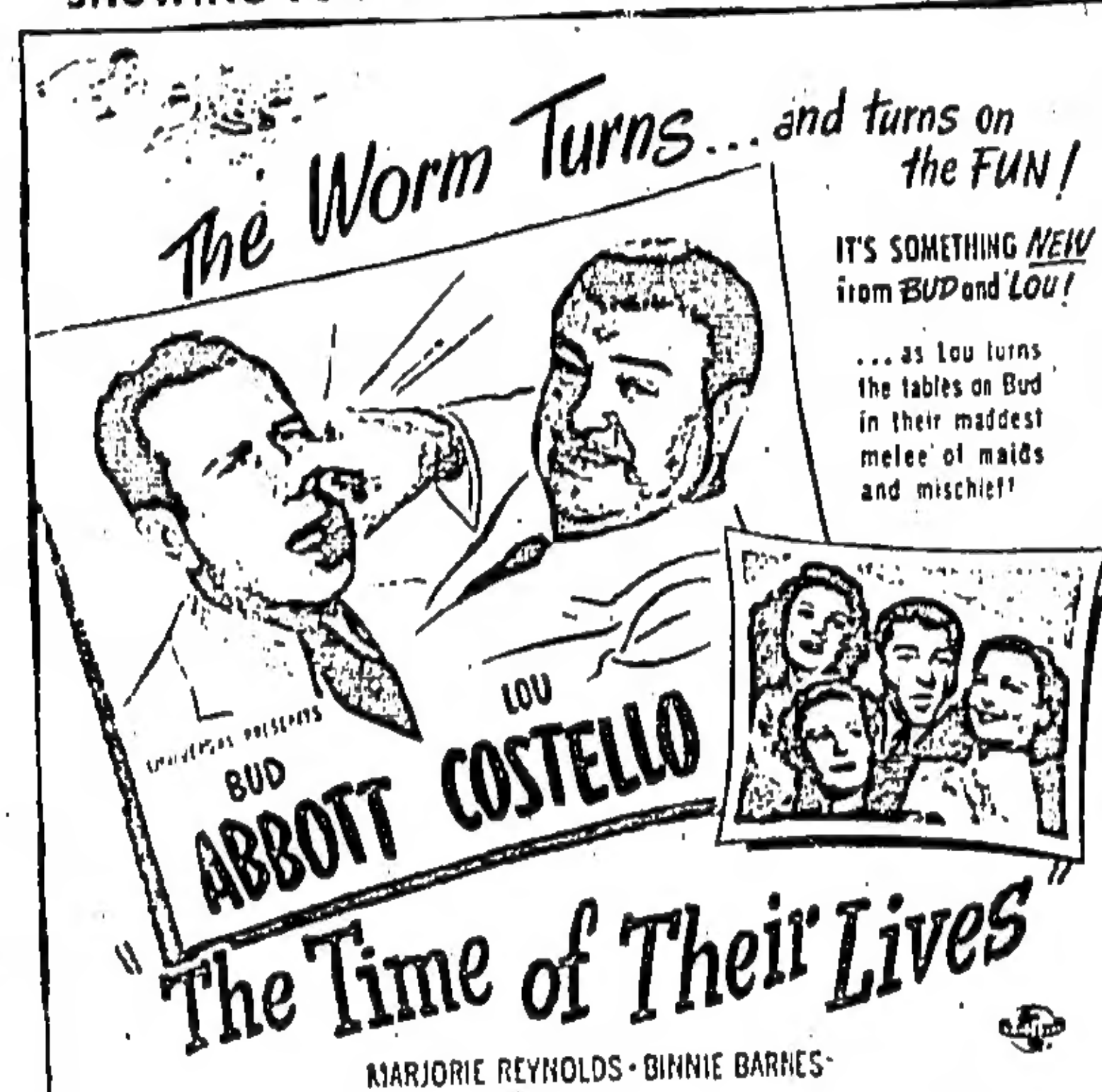
A Suggestion Repeated

SEVERAL months ago we suggested that members of the pre-war Hongkong Automobile Association should revive that organisation to meet new needs created by the Colony's fast-increasing private traffic. Nothing has so far been done in the matter, but there is reason to believe a sufficient number of former members of the HKAA have now returned to Hongkong to make the proposition practical. More than 10,000 licensed vehicles are making daily use of the Colony's roads, and traffic problems, especially on the island's congested main streets, have assumed perplexing proportions. The traffic authorities and their advisory committee are rightly expected to resolve these problems, but they could be materially assisted by the interest, advice, and suggestions of a competent Automobile Association. Many useful functions could be performed by such a body. Inspectors could patrol public parking spaces, thus affording protection to cars otherwise exposed to the quick fingers of petty pilferers. As it did in its first state, the Association could compile registers of qualified chauffeurs and members who require them. Before the war the Association not only tested

the efficiency of chauffeurs seeking employment, but set standard rates of pay agreeable to workers and employers alike. An Automobile Association could also help the public and drivers by giving members who needed instruction in the rules and manners of the highway. The Association could be of incalculable value to the police in their "Safety First" campaigns, and could also give the traffic authorities guidance in the matter of road improvements for the mutual benefit of drivers and pedestrians. The functions of an Automobile Association would be to render every assistance to its members such as protection for parked cars and where possible technical aid in the event of breakdowns, and also to co-operate with the Authorities in reducing road accident risks by the insistence of a high degree of driving competence by its members. When we first advanced the suggestion that the Hongkong Automobile Association be re-formed, the Telegraph offered to do everything it could in a practical way to assist the organisers. We repeat this offer because we believe that Hongkong genuinely needs such an Association. We also believe there are sufficient numbers of public-spirited motorists willing to come forward and reconstitute the HKAA.

SHOWING
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THE SECRET THAT MILLIONS KEPT!
RALPH RICHARDSON
in
"SCHOOL FOR SECRETS"
COMMENCING FRIDAY
"TARZAN and HUNTRESS"
Starring JOHNNY WEISSMULLER



Sefton Delmer's NEWSMAP

PARIS, Dec. 1

A FRENCH politician I know has put what he calls a "vellum" on his bedside table—a tiny electric night-lamp showing a faint blue light. And although he is not an extravagant man or prone to seeing things in the dark, he keeps that lamp on all night.

"That way," he says, "I know what is happening as soon as I open my eyes. If the light is on, I can go to sleep again. But if I find it is out, I shall get dressed at once and leave the house."

"For if the light goes out that means that the Communists have called out the power station, and that means the Government will have to put soldiers in to work the power station."

"The Communists are bound to resist that, and voila, we have open civil war. If there is civil war I do not want to be caught at home in my bed."

Now, I believe my nervous politician-friend is taking a somewhat over-dramatic view of the situation. Nevertheless, I, too, have taken to switching on the lights at odd hours of the night ever since the Government put its new decrees before the Chamber of Deputies and the Communists started their filibuster against them.

For though I do not anticipate any shooting or civil war, I am convinced these next days are going to be of

decisive significance in the battle now being fought out in France, as it is being fought out in Italy.

And the outcome of that battle—the same old battle between the Communists and the Westerners led by the Americans—is of vital importance to you and me and all of us who, for better or for worse, depend for much of our bread and butter on the prosperity of the Western World.

On or off—the lights will show which way things are going. They will help to reveal—

Whether the Communist hold over organized labour is strong enough for them to defy the Government and carry on in France the campaign against Western capitalism, democracy, it will show whether they can undermine the country with strike after strike, and create a revolutionary situation in which they might themselves seize power.

Whether the Government—though based on the two parties most heavily defeated in the recent municipal elections—has enough authority and is strong enough to fight the Communists and restore stability.

Whether the only alternative to Communist dictatorship is the *se m i*—Authoritarian General de Gaulle, victor of the municipal elections.

Pay question

TWO things make me believe that this coming week ought to give us a good idea of how the battle is going to turn out, although it is not actually going to be the end of the battle.

In the first place, everyone working here had a pay day this week-end, whether they were paid by the week, the fortnight, or the month. That is important. For in France the unions do not distribute strike pay.

Some categories of workers, like the post-office clerks, civil servants and teachers, who are paid by the month, may have hesitated up to now to obey the strike orders of their Communist bosses because they did not want to lose their month's wages. Now they have got them and they are free to strike—if they want to.

If they do not strike, that means the Communists have lost their hold over this important class.

Secondly, the new Prime Minister, hard-mouthed Robert Schuman, whom the Communists call a Prussian and a Boche because he was born in Alsace, the highly controversial anti-strike laws he is rushing through Parliament.

Schuman and his supporters hope that these laws will cause the return of a large number of workers who joined the strike only because they were afraid of the Communists.

Their rights

It is possible, however, that the new decrees will have the opposite effect. They are so general that they appear to make all strikes illegal. Many workers who were hitherto lukewarm in supporting what they held to be a political strike organised at the bidding of the Communist organisation may join it now in order to defend their elementary right to strike.

France learns the language of the lights

In that case it will depend on how effectively and how tactfully the Government uses its new powers and the troops it is hurriedly mobilising.

Certainly up to the present support of the strike seems to have been far from complete and far from enthusiastic. And that despite the fact that the people asked to strike are suffering extreme hardship.

Communist leader Thorez, returning by rail from his trip to Moscow yesterday, must have been disgruntled when he arrived at the French frontier to find that he could perfectly well have proceeded to Paris by train, and that he did not need the car which had been optimistically sent to meet him.

M. Thorez's express is by no means the only train still running, and the number of railway workers returning to work has been steadily increasing, as the police remove Communist sit-down groups from the locomotive sheds.

At the St Lazare station I talked to a railway worker who was carrying on. The first man, a station porter, said: "I cannot afford to strike, I need the pay, therefore I do not strike."

The driver and mate of an electric train which had just come in said: "We are not striking, because this is purely political strike. The strike is against France."

Both men said they had been struck off their union lists. But that did not worry them. "In France," said the driver, "it is necessary for a man to belong to a union to work."

Not secret

I HAD a drink in a large cafe near the big Renault motor-car factory, which is a nationalised concern.

"The strike goes on," said a man in a leather coat, at was decided by a show of hands. "In fact there was a secret ballot."

"Two-thirds would vote against."

"Well, why don't they just go back to work?" I asked.

"The Communists have occupied the works."

"Would you be pleased if the Government sent troops or military to remove them?"

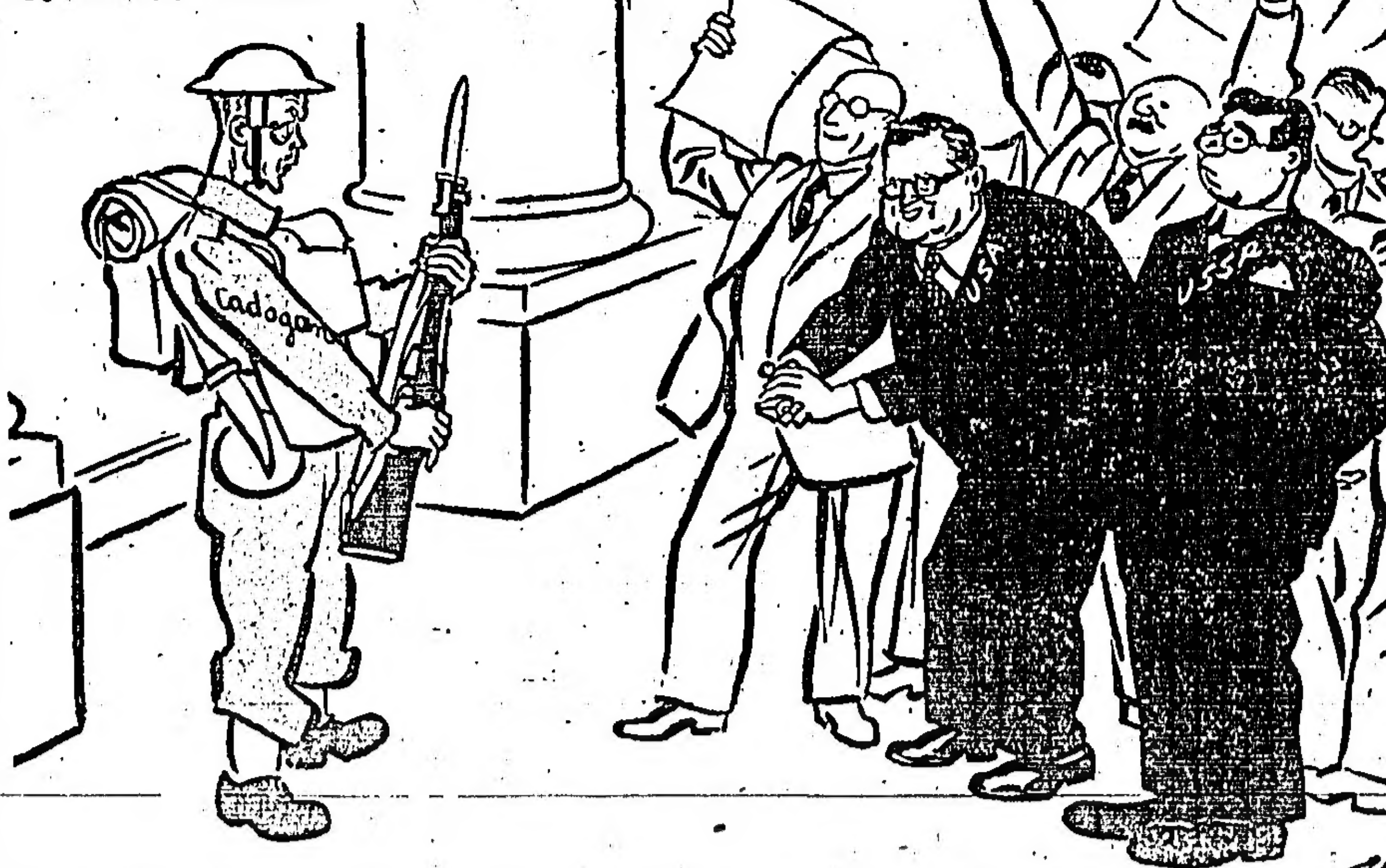
"Yes, we want to get back to work. This is really just a political strike. There it was, the same phrase again."

Yes, it looks as though the big Communist offensive will turn into a big Communist retreat.

They are in a difficult dilemma, and must decide between two courses—

WHETHER to risk all in carrying on the strikes and facing the Government forces here and now in the bitter cold weather and risk even greater unpopularity for the Communists; or

"OH, GOOD! ALL READY TO FIGHT THE ARABS, EH?"
"NO—ALL READY TO FIGHT PEOPLE WHO WANT ME TO FIGHT THE ARABS"



PALESTINE DAY AT THE U.N.

By Low

IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT

By ERNEST THURTELL, M.P.

THERE is considerable disappointment at the announcement that the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine will not be completed before August next.

Earlier official statements had created the impression that the Government had decided upon withdrawal much sooner than this.

Disappointment will, I predict, change to indignation if, after all, withdrawal is so delayed that the task of keeping the peace while an unpopular UNO policy is being put into operation falls upon already sorely tried British soldiers.

There are on record many official assurances that such an unfortunate situation would not be allowed to arise.

But when morale cracks and defections begin, even stout-hearted leadership must incline to despair.

Some desert to the Right, some to the Left. Mr Tom Horabin has come over to Labour, and his indignant local party invites him to resign.

Perhaps his change is not surprising, for he was always to the Left of his party.

But rumour has it (I know the jade has a habit of lying) that someone with a famous Liberal name is likely to follow in the Horabin footsteps.

Should that happen "Ichabod" might indeed be scrawled across the drooping banners of a once-great political party.

A GOOD man struggling with adversity is said to make the gods weep.

Mr Clem Davies, the sincere and able leader of the Liberal Parliamentary Party, must surely come within this category.

It is hard enough to lead a party in a forlorn fight when it is united and its spirits are high.

IT was good to be in a peaceful House of Commons the other evening when the second reading of the National Public Assistance Bill passed without a division.

Mr Aneurin Bevan, in moving this measure, in a speech which for him was restrained yet quietly exultant, was in effect conducting the burial service of the old Poor Law, born three centuries ago in Elizabethan England.

It says much for the way the social conscience of the country has changed that no dissentient voice was raised against the proposal.

In the course of the years much has been done to soften the harshness of the old law, and many worthy people within living memory, but no longer with us, worked hard in that cause.

One listened and felt a certain regret that fate had not permitted these people, such as the Webbs and George Lansbury, to see their labours brought to final fruition.

PARTY reaction to the Dalton affair confirms my belief that the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer will be back in the Government before many months have passed. The feeling that he is too good a man to lose from the Ministerial team is as strong as the sympathy felt for him personally, and that is saying much.

One by-product of the incident in the Labour ranks is a feeling of resentment against the Press in general, and talk of need for restricting facilities hitherto enjoyed by lobby correspondents.

I do not believe that anything that has yet happened establishes a case for such repressive action, and take the view that the good sense of the House will be against it.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THE Strabismus Rocket stands almost ready for the great attempt to reach the moon. The Doctor is awaiting final weather reports from the stratosphere.

Meanwhile the people of Warglant Parvise, staring over the rapid enclosure, can see the great black monster, balanced between huge slanting set in concrete, and pointing its blunt nozzle at the sky, as though it already sniffed the lunar air. The Doctor will be accompanied by Professor Deanderant, the eminent authority on thau-maturgies from Basingstoke University. Sir Ray Hoplite, lecturer in automatic metaphysics at the Colorado Springs Institute, Sir Archer Tatham, the barometrist, and Professor Alban Trowie, representing Unesco.

First editions
THE fuss about first editions has always amused me. First editions of my own books are exceedingly rare already, and worth about fourpence a dozen. Yet I believe I could be getting as much as sixpence a dozen if my publishers had only taken care to get a few copies printed with my initials wrong or with a misplaced comma on the fly-leaf.

A nasty occurrence
REFERRING to my conviction that small politicians on holiday

should be thrown back into the sea, my representative on the East Coast sends me this cutting:

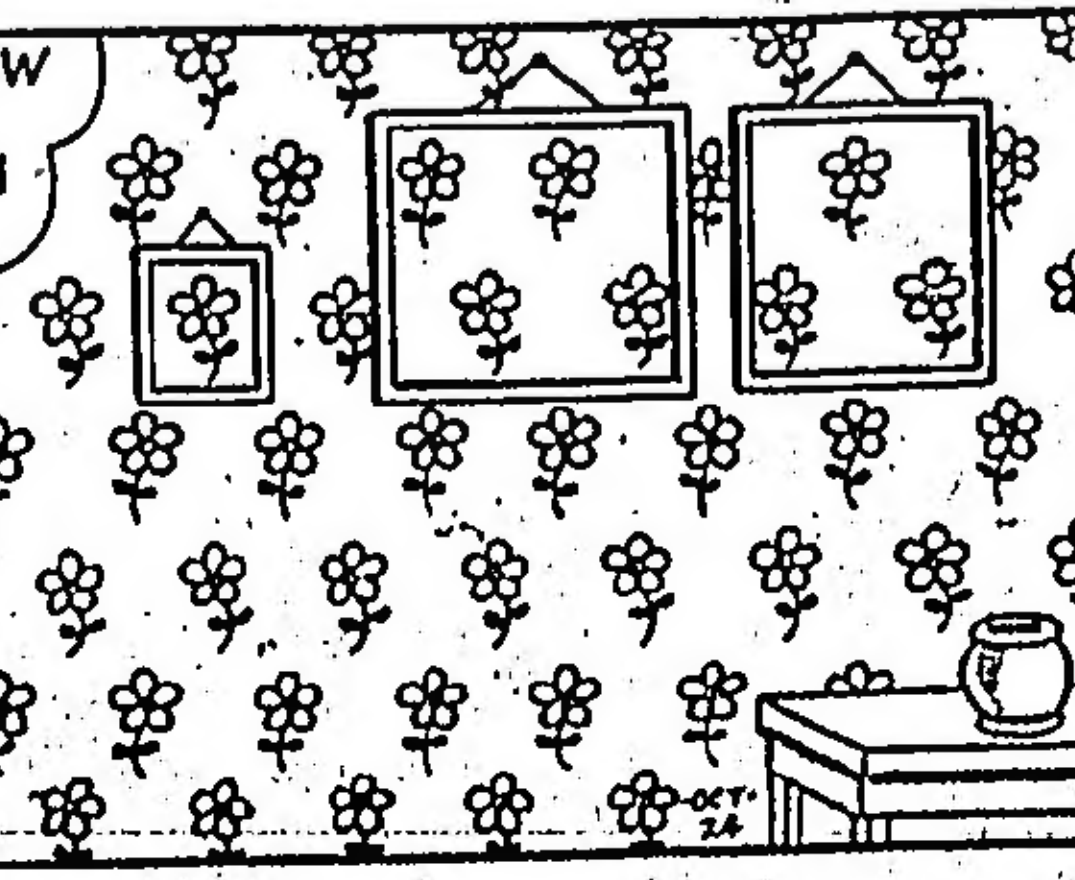
To prevent fish rotting on the quays, fishermen threw back large quantities of the other day. The mayor, who superintended the work, was just in time to rescue a politician from a pile of fish. Asked how he recognised him among the fish, the mayor said: "He was the only one wearing a hat." It was afterwards discovered that the politician had gone bad some months ago, and was so rotten that many fish had cut him on the quay.

Not much progress to report

SUET pressed a button and shouted: "Send in Miss Golightly." And in came That Secretary. "In re nationalisation of schedules," said Suet, "what have you in our files?" Nationalisation of the Theodolite? "repeated the secretary. "Yes," snarled Suet, "and don't thammer." "It isn't a th-thammer," replied the secretary nervously, "it's a lilt." "Skip it," said Suet rudely, for that mild man was in a vile temper. "Who?" asked the secretary. "Who what?" replied Suet. "I don't understand," said Miss Golightly, "Neither of us ever understands," groaned Suet. "That's why this place is like a madhouse." Miss Golightly, frowning left the room on tiptoe.

By Ernie Bushmiller.

NANCY A Matter of Taste



Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Renie for Lois Leeds.

A Prediction—which should be read by every woman.

PREDICTIONS

"Dresses are longer now!" So said Renie, designer of R. K. O.—Radio-Studies. She said it quietly and firmly. "Dresses are longer now." So there you have it! And they are! And when the dresses are a bit longer you look "funny" if you don't drop yours.

Renie is a charming, young American designer, a product of the U.S.A., and she does an outstanding and artistic job. Styles in the movies are predictions. They set the pace and a designer just has to be right. She designs for the movies, yes, but she is also giving ideas to the audience!

Renie was wearing her skirt longer. Not very much, but definitely longer than many of the women at the luncheon. Her beige suit was topped by a "longer" jacket. A beige hat and blouse harmonized with her golden accessories.

If you have beautiful legs, don't keep on wearing the short skirt. Your legs will look just as beautiful with that added inch or so of skirt length. It's just a new look now and you'll want that look. So, let down your skirts!

Minnie Makeup
by GABRIELLE



When you are in a hurry and your hair "looks a mess", dampen it with cologne and roll up the ends on soft wire curlers. Cleanse your face with cream and remove with tissues. Let that be your base. A touch of cream-rouge, powder well, brush it smooth. A touch to lips, a touch to eyes—and there you are!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"You can put me down for a 1948 model, but I won't turn this one in, brother—I'm not taking any chances on a new one breaking down!"

Mona Lisa's Return Brings Him Joy

BY JAMES MCGILINCY

Paris—The little man who wouldn't tell his name was happy—Mona Lisa had come home. "For twenty years we've lived together," he said. He looked at Mona and smiled and she smiled back at him, with that queer, questioning personal smile she has.

THE KING'S REPORTER IN COMMONS

The recent appointment of Mr Ernest Popplewell, Member for Newcastle West in the House of Commons, as Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household, recalls an ancient traditional custom in Britain. As Vice-Chamberlain, it is Mr Popplewell's duty to act as personal "reporter" to King George VI in the House of Commons and it is his duty, after each sitting, to write a brief account of the day's proceedings and convey it by personal messenger or telegraph to His Majesty.

This custom dates from the reign of George III, and arises from the fact that the Sovereign is the only person in the whole world who is not allowed to listen to a Commons debate. The last Sovereign who set foot in the House was Charles I, and his visit precipitated a chain of events that cost him his head.

Disraeli's News Sense

The library at Buckingham Palace has preserved these nightly reports for more than 150 years, and they form a fascinating record of British politics. The styles adopted by different chroniclers have differed widely. Disraeli was in turn witty, malicious and canny, and his reports show that he had a keen "news sense."

The report is usually written in the early hours of the morning, and on one occasion Queen Victoria was astonished on opening her despatch box to find in it not only the report, but a pipe and tobacco left there accidentally by Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Mr Winston Churchill.

Today, with Hansard's verbatim reports and newspaper reports, there is slight necessity for the existence of the "King's Reporter." But the House of Commons is always jealous of its traditions and reluctant to allow them to die.

Copper Saved The Museum's Dome

The copper covering the British Museum's reading room roof—the second largest dome in the world—saved the roof from worse damage when an oil bomb fell on it during a raid in 1941. This was disclosed by E. Carr, building engineer to the Copper Development Association, speaking at Liverpool University.

He said that had the roof melted, molten material would have cascaded down into the interior of the building, spread fire and would have caused irreparable losses to the Museum's libraries.

"The dome escaped with very little damage," he stated. "The bomb casing alone penetrated the roof, and oil ejected from the casing poured flaming down the dome into the deep 'snow gallery' where it burnt itself out."

Recent inspection of the dome showed that, although it had been exposed to weather for 90 years the condition of the copper was remarkable.

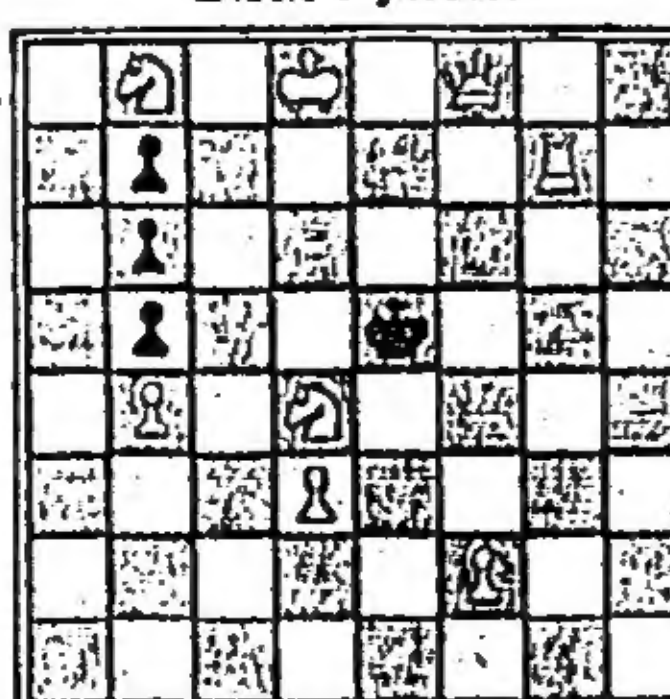
Cheek Your Knowledge

1. What is the meaning of the expression "between Scylla and Charybdis"?
2. What does the square on the hypotenuse equal?
3. Can you tell a rattlesnake's age by the number of joints in its rattle?
4. What name is given to a painting done on a wall?
5. Who was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson?
6. Which falls more quickly, a heavy or a light object?

(Answers on Page 4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By R. HULSEN
Black 4 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.
White to play and mate in two.
Solution to yesterday's problem:
1. K-K4; 2. Q-Q4; 3. R-R1; 4. Kt-K3; 5. Kt-K4; 6. Kt-K5; 7. Kt-K6; 8. Kt-K7; 9. Kt-K8; 10. Kt-K9; 11. Kt-K10; 12. Kt-K11; 13. Kt-K12; 14. Kt-K13; 15. Kt-K14; 16. Kt-K15; 17. Kt-K16; 18. Kt-K17; 19. Kt-K18; 20. Kt-K19; 21. Kt-K20; 22. Kt-K21; 23. Kt-K22; 24. Kt-K23; 25. Kt-K24; 26. Kt-K25; 27. Kt-K26; 28. Kt-K27; 29. Kt-K28; 30. Kt-K29; 31. Kt-K30; 32. Kt-K31; 33. Kt-K32; 34. Kt-K33; 35. Kt-K34; 36. Kt-K35; 37. Kt-K36; 38. Kt-K37; 39. Kt-K38; 40. Kt-K39; 41. Kt-K40; 42. Kt-K41; 43. Kt-K42; 44. Kt-K43; 45. Kt-K44; 46. Kt-K45; 47. Kt-K46; 48. Kt-K47; 49. Kt-K48; 50. Kt-K49; 51. Kt-K50; 52. Kt-K51; 53. Kt-K52; 54. Kt-K53; 55. Kt-K54; 56. Kt-K55; 57. Kt-K56; 58. Kt-K57; 59. Kt-K58; 60. Kt-K59; 61. Kt-K60; 62. Kt-K61; 63. Kt-K62; 64. Kt-K63; 65. Kt-K64; 66. Kt-K65; 67. Kt-K66; 68. Kt-K67; 69. Kt-K68; 70. Kt-K69; 71. Kt-K70; 72. Kt-K71; 73. Kt-K72; 74. Kt-K73; 75. Kt-K74; 76. Kt-K75; 77. Kt-K76; 78. Kt-K77; 79. Kt-K78; 80. Kt-K79; 81. Kt-K80; 82. Kt-K81; 83. Kt-K82; 84. Kt-K83; 85. 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Christmas At Palace

London, Dec. 17.—Christmas festivities began at Buckingham Palace today when the King and Queen spent an hour listening to carols sung by the choir of the Chapel Royal, St James.

The King handed autographed bibles to the choir boys.

The royal servants had a Christmas dinner with roast turkey and champagne at Eton tonight, and held their annual staff dance which the King and Queen, together with Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, attended.—Reuter.

New Slant In Russian Propaganda

Washington, Dec. 17.—Government intelligence experts today reported a shift in Russian propaganda to play up the Soviet Union as the protector of both Jews and Arabs against American and British "imperialism."

These experts analysed the trend as an effort by the Russians to lay the groundwork for a too-hold in Palestine, which will be used as a Communist springboard for infiltration into the oil-rich Middle East.

Russian propagandists were said to have ignored or played down the United Nations decision on Palestine's partition until about a week ago. Then Moscow Radio and the Communist press began a campaign apparently directed at making future political capital out of the move.

Official intelligence studies made available said the Russians in the last few days have emphasised that the Soviet Union "has no material or other interests in Palestine whatsoever," and declared that the Soviet Union "defends the rights of both Arabs and Jews" and asserted, "there is no guarantee that the Anglo-American imperialist circles will carry out the United Nations decision in good faith."

Diplomatic officials said Russian interest in the Middle East was far from academic. Russia's known oil reserves are estimated at about 6,000,000 barrels, compared with an estimated untapped reserve in the Middle East of nearly 30,000,000 barrels, mainly held by American and British interests.—United Press.

TITO VISITS RUMANIA

Belgrade, Dec. 17.—Marshall Josip Tito, Yugoslav Premier, who left Belgrade last night at the head of a government delegation to Rumania, may seek another mutual aid pact to add to those he personally negotiated with Hungary and Bulgaria.

Yugoslavia already has a cultural pact with Rumania, signed on June 27.

With Marshal Tito travelled his Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Finance and the Foreign Minister. They are expected to remain in Rumania for three days.

This move towards the consolidation of the Balkans followed the signing of a friendship pact yesterday between Bulgaria and Albania at Plovdiv, 70 miles southeast of Sofia.

At this ceremony, the Bulgarian Premier predicted "a common democratic front against imperialism by all the Balkan countries," though, he said, the absence of democratic Greece left a gap in the Balkan democratic front.—Reuter.

EX-INTERNEE ON TRIAL

Amsterdam, Dec. 17.—The trial opens here in a special court next Saturday of 48-year-old Mrs. Hermine Bouffer-Kollewijn, accused of betraying fellow inmates of the "Tijlenda" internment camp in the Netherlands East Indies, where 10,000 European women lived during the Japanese occupation.

The accused is alleged to have informed on women breaking camp rules, with result that they were shorn and beaten on the orders of Captain Honel, Japanese camp commander, who has since been executed as a war criminal.

After the Japanese capitulation most of the women were repatriated to Holland, including Mrs. Bouffer-Kollewijn and a Mrs. Tolhoek-Mallepaard, who will act as a Crown witness.—Reuter.

Wallace May Run For Presidency

New York, Dec. 17.—A movement to nominate Mr. Henry Wallace, the Vice-President under President Roosevelt, as a candidate for the Presidency in the elections next year on an independent third party platform was launched today by the Progressive Citizens of America, a Leftwing group which has strongly supported Mr. Wallace's criticism of American foreign policy.

If Mr. Wallace is finally nominated, it is expected that President Truman's chances of re-election will be endangered because of a possible split in the Democratic vote.—Reuter.

WESTERN POWERS TO ACT QUICKLY IN GERMANY

BY JOHN HIGHTOWER

London, Dec. 18.—Almost the last barriers to outright political and economic war between the western powers and Russia were swept away in the collapse of the Big Four Foreign Minister's conference on Germany.

The United States, Great Britain and France may now be expected to move with speed and precision—probably early next year—to unify western Germany and join its resources with the Marshall Plan for reconstruction of western Europe. The restraints on western policy which existed before the failure here last week that eliminated the last chance of Big Four unification of Germany—have ceased to be. The merger, which in the case of the British and American zones has been purely economic, may now become the basis for western German political administration as well.

The plans and speculations of western diplomats—which are yet to be confirmed by the form of policy decisions of their governments—have been known for weeks. It was against the consolidation of western Germany as well as for Russia's reparations claims that Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov fought hardest at the conference.

Russia's Intentions
It is not known what Russia intends to do. The Russians are capable of swift, decisive action, and in the present crisis such action is expected of them.

Persons closely associated with American Secretary of State Marshall speculate that once the western powers begin to unify

STRIKES AND DISORDERS IN ITALY

Rome, Dec. 17.—General strikes accompanied by some disorder again swept several principal Italian centres and threatened others today.

Leftists ended a week-long occupation of the city hall of Pescara, which they ruled by a "citizens' committee." The Interior Ministry said the occupation ended after the government threatened to use force to oust the partisans.

Authorities arrested leaders of a general strike in Catania, Sicily. Many were injured in scattered clashes between crowds and police in Catania.

A general strike tied up Palermo, capital of Sicily. Disputes from Pescara said 400 partisans occupied the municipal seat when Socialist Mayor Mario Giovannucci refused to give up his job at government behest.

The Interior Department said it ordered him out when investigators discovered the city's accounts in "great arrears," taxes uncollected, unauthorized spending in progress, and irregularities in distribution of UNRRA goods.

In an initial test of strength of Premier Alcide De Gasperi's re-organised government, the Assembly voted down a Communist motion to reverse the order dismissing Giovannucci. The vote was 246 to 140.—Associated Press.

STALIN RETURNS TO MOSCOW

Moscow, Dec. 18.—Generalissimo Stalin has returned from his vacation, and persons who have seen him say that he looks well-tanned and rested.

Stalin will be 68 years old on Sunday. He is reported to have spent his vacation on the Black Sea coast at Sochi and other resorts.

Mario de Pimental Brandao, who was Brazilian Ambassador to Moscow until leaving there last month, said in Stockholm on November 11 that Stalin's health was causing his doctors concern, and that they had ordered him to take things easy.—Associated Press.

Draft Peace Treaty Postponed

London, Dec. 17.—The Foreign Ministers' special deputies on Austria decided tonight to postpone the working out of a draft peace treaty for Austria until early in the New Year.

They were charged with this task when the "Big Four" meeting collapsed on Monday.

It is expected that by the time the deputies resume work on the treaty a number of delegations will have had a chance to clarify their points of view and more information will be available on which they can work.—Reuter.

U.S. Coal Mines Stoppage Threat

Washington, Dec. 17.—A mid-winter stoppage in U.S. coal mines is threatened unless a settlement is reached on miners' pensions and other claims which employers calculate would cost about \$240,000,000 per year.

A deadlock has arisen between the employers and Mr. John Lewis, leader of the United Mineworkers, who is claiming pensions for all miners at the age of 60 after 20 years' service. The proposed annuity would be \$1,200.—Reuter.

western Germany, the Russians will undertake the creation of a political structure in the east.

Thus there may emerge in the months ahead two German governments, each speaking with voice of German nationalism as well as the sentiments of the power or powers supporting it. As far as Germany goes, the danger of reviving the differences between the Allied victors of World War II may be near at hand. And just as the west intends to build the resources of its part of Germany into the recovery of western Europe, so the Russians may follow the line of integrating their eastern zone into the economic-political system which their satellite states recently have been creating through trade agreements and assistance pacts.

Partitioning Of Germany
The practical partitioning of Germany, at least so far as the United States is concerned, most probably will proceed in the immediate future, on the theory that Germany eventually will be unified.

The danger foreseen by the French is that through failure of the Allies to agree now, Germany eventually may be a more powerful state more influential in the affairs of Europe than the Allies ever intended it should become.

The problems of unifying Germany through joint action of the western powers and Germany may become more difficult as months and perhaps years go by. On the other hand, the task the Foreign Ministers faced here seemed impossible from the first.

The lines of conflict already were laid down when they met. The adherence of the United States, Britain and France to the Marshall Plan and the vehement opposition of the Soviet Union to the plan made the London failure almost a foregone conclusion.

Keep Talking

The nearest thing to positive achievement of the London meeting was the suggestion put forward by Marshall and British Foreign Secretary Bevin that some time, somewhere, another meeting should be held. To keep the Big Four talking, to keep up the slender bridges that still connect Washington, London and Paris with Moscow, becomes the task of Big Four diplomacy, pending the time when conditions are more suitable than they were for a general settlement between the east and west.

That time probably will not come until there has been a severe test of strength between the contending forces—until the fate of the Marshall Plan and Russian organization of eastern Europe are known.

Meanwhile, the fate of all Europe as well as of the big powers is deeply involved, and the imperatives of trade—resulting in such arrangements as the new British-Soviet trade pact—and a kind of general feeling that the issues can be settled, short of war, are the only restraints that remain to reassure worried citizens of the world.—Associated Press.

French Plan To Save Franc

Paris, Dec. 17.—A "forced loan" is reliably reported to be among the measures which the French Government approved at the Cabinet meeting today when the Ministers discussed the plan of the Finance Minister, M. Rene Mayer, to save the franc.

The policy underlying the Finance Minister's plan is that of restoring the free market in a maximum number of commodities and balancing the budget by increased taxation and big cuts in State expenditure.

Only 10 out of 1,500 commodities would in future be controlled. These would include coal, steel and wheat. A heavy increase in taxation and, sweeping cuts in Government expenditure will be necessary if the budget is to be balanced.

Late tonight, the Cabinet was holding its second meeting on the plan. It will be officially announced in a speech by the Finance Minister to the National Assembly on Friday.—Reuter.

Scarlet Fever On Gen. Gordon

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—One thousand two hundred passengers from the Orient have been placed under "temporary quarantine" on board the liner General Gordon. Three cases of scarlet fever developed on the ship, which arrived this morning.

Dr. E. W. Norris, chief quarantine officer for the port, said passengers would be permitted to land tonight. Those exposed to the disease will be placed under surveillance by San Francisco health authorities and advised to restrict their movements for the period of incubation of the disease. This varies from two to seven days.—Associated Press.

Molotov In Moscow

Moscow, Dec. 17.—M. Vyacheslav Molotov arrived back in Moscow this afternoon from the Foreign Minister's conference in London.—Reuter.



INDONESIANS REJECT DUTCH PROPOSALS

Batavia, Dec. 17.—The Indonesian Republicans reply to Dutch suggestions for variations in the cease fire plan for Indonesia amounts to their rejection, reliable Republican sources here said today.

WRESTLING MATCHES IN LONDON

London, Dec. 17.—Fred Oberlander, 33-year-old Vienna-born company director, who held the British heavyweight wrestling title from 1938 to 1946 and is unbeaten in this country, won the heavyweight division of London's wrestling championships tonight, winning both his bouts on falls.

He beat K. Richmond in two minutes 39 seconds, and L. Piddock in eight minutes 24 seconds. Oberlander, who weighs over 10 stone, was watched by his wife.—Reuter.

DUTCHMAN WINS

Amsterdam, Dec. 17.—The Dutch middleweight champion, Luc Van Dam, won a ten-round contest on points against a Frenchman, Robert Charon, here tonight.

A crowd of 3,000 spectators saw the Dutchman's superior technique gain a well earned victory. He floored the Frenchman in the second round for a short count.

The Frenchman's attacks were constantly checked by the accurate counter-punching of Van Dam.—Reuter.

NO FRAUD

New York, Dec. 17.—Edward Eagan, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission today announced that the investigation of the Jake Lamotta-Billy Fox bout of November 15 showed no evidence of fraud, and he ordered the purses released to the participants.

The purses for the bout had been held up after Lamotta, a New York middleweight, had turned in a poor performance in being stopped in the fourth round of a bout at Madison Square Garden.—United Press.

SHANNON NOMINATED

Miami, Dec. 17.—Shannon, Australian thoroughbred sprinter and handicap champion, was nominated today for the McLennan and Widener Stakes, at Hialeah race course here this winter.

Shannon arrived in California last month, where he is training also for the Santa Anita Stakes.

Shannon regarded as the greatest horse to come from Australia since the ill-fated Pharlap in 1933.—United Press.

RUGBY RESULTS

London, Dec. 17.—Results of Rugby Union games played yesterday were as follows:
Royal Marines, 3 Aldershot 10.
Ulster 20, Army 13.—Reuter.

FRENCH RUGGERS

Paris, Dec. 17.—The French Rugby XV to meet Scotland at Colombes Stadium, Paris, on January 1 was announced today as follows:
Back: Rouilla; Threequarters: from Jeanjean, Pomathos, Sorondo, Jurgens and Tercant; Halves: (fly) and Berghouman (scrum); Forwards: Prat, Basquet, Mathew, Soro, Moga, Buz, Caron and Martin.—Reuter.

CANADA'S QUEST

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The Canadian Ice Hockey Association is making a nationwide search for amateur ice hockey players to represent Canada at the winter Olympics.

This followed the heavy defeat for the Royal Canadian Air Force team which had been chosen to represent Canada, but the team last night took their second defeat in succession when a mediocre army side won 6-2. It then announced that the Olympic team would be "considerably bolstered" before leaving for Switzerland.

The difficulty is to find players who were unpaid for their services, and one joking suggestion in that the Olympic committee should sign the Quebec "amateur" team which at present is on strike for back pay.—Reuter.

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Wallace Blasts U.S. Policy

Rochester, Dec. 17.—Former Vice-President Henry Wallace today blasted the Truman Doctrine as one which incorporates a "military policy not a peace policy," and said it would lead the United States to war.

In an address delivered at a "Progressive Citizens of America" rally here, Wallace described the present United States foreign policy as "typically reactionary" and "suicidal."

He said: "We are gaining only momentary lip service from hungry peoples who will not ally themselves with reaction when the chips are really down."

Meanwhile in New York, the Executive Committee of the Progressive Citizens of America announced it voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Wallace to run for President as an independent candidate. The Committee declared Wallace must run for President because "millions of Americans will stay away from the polls if they are confronted with two brands of reaction. These millions of Americans must not be disenfranchised."—United Press.

TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

H.K.T.
6. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 6.30. Studio: La Denti-Huere; 7. London: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 7.15. B.B.C. Transcription Service; "Jazz" with Tommy Handley; 7.45. B.B.C. Transcription Service; "Jazz" with Tommy Handley; 8.15. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 8.30. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 8.45. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 9.15. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 9.30. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 9.45. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 10. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 10.15. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 10.30. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 10.45. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 11. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 11.15. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 11.30. Studio: "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Burn; 11.45. Studio: "Jazz World" and "Home News"; 12. 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